

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A focusing method for a zoom lens system comprising at least two lens groups, said focusing method comprising:

operating a portion of said zoom lens system as a focusing lens group over the entire focal length range of the zoom lens system, the entire focal length range comprising a plurality of discrete focal length ranges; and

changing the portion of said zoom lens system, which functions as said focusing lens group, from a first portion to a second portion, in accordance with the discrete focal length ranges,

wherein said focusing lens group comprises a lens group with a transverse magnification that becomes -1 at a discrete focal length ~~range~~ of said zoom lens system during zooming; and

wherein said lens group functions as said focusing lens group in a discrete focal length range that does not include said discrete focal length range of the zoom lens system.

2. (Original) The focusing method according to claim 1, wherein said zoom lens system comprises a first lens group and a second lens group in this order from an object;

wherein in a predetermined discrete focal length range, said first lens group functions as said focusing lens group; and

wherein in another predetermined discrete focal length range, said second lens group functions as said focusing lens group.

3. (Original) The focusing method according to claim 1, wherein said zoom lens system comprises a first lens group, a second lens group and a third lens group in this order from an object;

wherein in a predetermined discrete focal length range, said second lens group functions as said focusing lens group; and

wherein in another predetermined discrete focal length range, said third lens group functions as said focusing lens group.

4. (Previously Presented) The focusing method according to claim 3, wherein said first lens group is immovable upon both zooming and focusing.

5. (Original) The focusing method according to claim 3, wherein said first lens group is moveable upon zooming.

6. (Previously Presented) The focusing method according to claim 1, wherein said zoom lens system comprises a first lens group, a second lens group, a third lens group and a fourth lens group in this order from an object;

P20339.A07

wherein in a predetermined discrete focal length range, said second lens group functions as said focusing lens group; and

wherein in another predetermined discrete focal length range, said second and fourth lens groups move integrally and said second and fourth lens groups function as said focusing lens group.

7. (Previously Presented) The focusing method according to claim 1, wherein said zoom lens system comprises a first lens group, a second lens group, a third lens group and a fourth lens group in this order from an object;

wherein in a predetermined discrete focal length range, said second, third and fourth lens groups are movable integrally and said first, second and third lens groups function as said focusing lens group; and

wherein in another predetermined discrete focal length range, said third and fourth lens groups are movable integrally and said third and fourth lens groups function as said focusing lens group.

8-11. (Canceled)